

## REVIEW

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RE: COMPETITION FOR THE ACADEMIC POSITION OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION 7. HEALTH AND SPORTS, PROFESSIONAL FIELD 7.1 MEDICINE IN THE INTERNAL MEDICINE SCIENTIFIC SPECIALTY FOR THE NEEDS OF THE MEDICAL FACULTY OF "PROF. DR. ASEN ZLATAROV" UNIVERSITY, BURGAS

### 1. Information about the procedure

The competition for the academic position Associate Professor in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field, 7.1 Medicine, in the Internal Medicine scientific specialty for the needs of the Medical Faculty of „Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov“ University, Burgas is announced in SG, issue 90/20.10.2020. By order № RD - 244 dated 21.12.2020. of the Rector of the University, I have been appointed as an external member of the Scientific jury and the decision of the first absentee meeting is to present a review.

There are two candidates in the competition, and the sequence of analysis is according to the order of submission of documents.

1. Petya Kamenova Petkova, MD, PhD
2. Svetlin Nedkov Tsonev, MD, PhD

The documents submitted by the candidates meet all the requirements of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (LDASRB), the Rules for Implementation of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (RILDASRB) and the Regulations on the terms and conditions for obtaining scientific degrees and holding academic positions at "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University", Burgas.

I declare that I have no conflict of interests.

*Due to the fact that there are two candidates for the competition, I cannot comply with the requirement for a "Review within 6 standard pages". This volume would allow the analysis of the documents of only one candidate.*

### 2. Professional data of the candidates

2.1. Petya Kamenova MD, was born in 1960. She graduated in medicine in 1984 at the Higher Medical Institute, Sofia University. From February 1985 to July 1986 she worked as a clinical resident in the Second Internal Ward, Regional Hospital – Pirdop (Srednogorie). Since July 1986 she has been successively assistant, senior assistant at the Diabetes Clinic, Scientific Institute of Endocrinology and Gerontology, Medical Academy Sofia, since 1993 – chief assistant at the Diabetes Clinic, Faculty Hospital of Endocrinology and Gerontology, Medical Faculty, Sofia, currently – Diabetology, Department of Endocrinology, Medical University of Sofia, "Acad. Iv. Penchev" University Specialized Hospital for Active

Treatment in Endocrinology. In 1990 she acquired a degree in internal medicine, and since 1992 – Endocrinology and metabolic diseases.

In 2004, Dr. Kamenova was awarded the PhD's Degree on the basis of a dissertation on "Insulin sensitivity and cardiovascular risk factors in type 2 diabetes."

At the moment, Dr. Kamenova has a total work experience of 35 years and 10 months and holds the academic position of "Assistant", "Senior Assistant" and "Chief Assistant" for a total of 34 years and 5 months.

She speaks English and Russian.

2.2. Dr. Svetlin Tsonev was born in 1981y. In 2006 he graduated in medicine at the Medical University – Sofia. He has acquired specialties in Cardiology in 2014 and Angiology in 2019, as well as Highly specialized activities in medicine – Echocardiography – fundamental level in 2014, Echocardiography – expert level in 2019, Invasive Vascular Medicine in 2019 and Ultrasound Vascular Diagnostics in 2020. In 2016 he graduated with a master's degree in Public Health and Health Management from the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University of Sofia.

Dr. Tsonev in the period 2008 to 2011 is a full-time PhD student in Cardiology at the Clinic of Cardiology, Medical University of Sofia, "Prof. St. Kirkovich" Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine, and from 2009 to 2015 he was successively assistant and chief assistant at the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine, Medical University of Sofia. From March 2015 to September 2019 he is a resident in angiology at City Clinic – Cardiovascular Center Sofia and an assistant at the Medical Faculty of St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University. From 02.2019 to 01.09.2020 he is Head of Interventional Department at the Clinic of Cardiology, Second Hospital Sofia EAD, and from 01.09.2020 he is currently a doctor at the Alexandrovska University Hospital, Department of Cardiology. Since 2019 he has been a honorary assistant in internal medicine to English language medical students at the Medical Faculty of the Medical University of Sofia.

In 2015, Dr. Tsonev was awarded the educational and scientific degree "PhD" on the basis of a defended dissertation on "Cardiac syndrome X in women – clinical, instrumental and laboratory characteristics."

Dr. Tsonev has passed a number of qualification courses and trainings at home and abroad in the field of cardiology – ESH Summer School, Smolenice, Slovakia (2009), "Clinical application of EchoCG: new and old. Training course with live demonstrations", Bucharest, Romania (2010), "Coronary reserve – echocardiographic technique", Mestre, Italy (2013), Hyperlipidemia Academy 2013, Berlin, Germany, PeripheralPCR, Milan, Italy, educational grant (2016) and others.

At the moment, Dr. Tsonev has a total work experience of 14 years and 4 months and holds the academic position of "assistant", "chief assistant" and "honorary assistant" of 9 years and 2 months.

He speaks English, Russian and German.

### 3. Evaluation of the quantitative and qualitative indicators of the candidate

At the beginning, for both candidates, I would like to note that there are inaccuracies in the scientific production scoring, as the mistake is in the distribution of articles in the Scopus and Web of Knowledge database and the National Reference List (NRC), which necessitated recalculation of points.

3.1. Dr. Kamenova presents herself at the competition with **90** scientific papers,

- Author's abstract of dissertation for acquiring educational and scientific degree "PhD" - 1;
- Related to the dissertation - 11.
  - Scientific articles in journals with IF - 1
  - Scientific articles in the Scopus database - 3,
  - Scientific reports - 7
    - In a magazine with IF - 1.
    - Participation in international congresses - 3
    - Participation in national congresses, with printed abstracts - 3
- Monograph - 0;
- Medical book with scientific editor - 2
  - In English - 2 chapters
- Medical book without a scientific editor - 2
  - In English published by Scholars' Press - 2 chapters
- Scientific articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals - 36
  - Actual publications in journals with IF - 7
  - International medical journals in Scopus database and Web of Knowledge - 1
  - National medical journals - 23
    - In Scopus and Web of Knowledge database - 16
    - National Reference List (NRS) - 7
- Scientific reports and communications presented in Bulgarian and international scientific forums - 38
  - Abstracts printed in journals with IF - 4
  - Abstracts printed in journals in the Scopus and Web of Knowledge database - 5
  - Participation in international congresses, with printed abstracts - 12
  - Participation in national congresses, with printed abstracts - 16
  - Interview in "Health Navigator" - 1

79 of them are subject to review, which were not reviewed upon acquisition of PhD's Degree.

I do not recognize the presented for the monograph "Metformin: therapeutic option in people at high cardiometabolic risk" (2 chapters) published by Scholars' Press in English in 2016, as such, because it does not meet the definition of *Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Additional provisions § 1*: "The monograph is a scientific paper, ... which has a scientific editor and/or scientific reviewers, ... and is not less than 100 standard pages with 1800 characters per page." The presented work has no editor or reviewers and is 52 standard typewritten pages, which is equivalent to 72 pages with 1800 characters, i.e. it is smaller in volume. I recognize the two chapters as 2 scientific articles in an international journal that are not in the Scopus or Web of Knowledge database.

The scientific articles and summaries of Dr. Kamenova are published in Osteoporosis International – 1, Arquivos Brasileiro de Endocrinologia & Metabologia – 2, Diabetologia – 1, Endocrinology – 5.

I do not accept №44 from the participation in scientific forums, because it is an interview in “Health Navigator”.

In 29 (74.4%) of the articles she is an independent or first author. The scientific activity of the candidate includes 40 scientific reports and announcements with printed abstracts, presented in 24 Bulgarian and 16 international scientific forums, as 3 of the abstracts are printed in journals with IF. In 11 of the reports she is an independent or first author (70%).

Media appearances and participation in clinical trials are not subject to review.

The CML report contains 276 citations in the Scopus and Web of Knowledge database (173 are in an article with the results of a clinical study).

From actual publications: General IF and individual IF: 15.672/6.95

From published abstracts: General IF and individual IF: 13.064/4.053

**The total impact factor of articles and abstracts is 28,738, and the individual IF is 10,903.**

3.2. Dr. Tsonev presented himself at the competition with 161 scientific papers.

- Author’s abstract of dissertation for acquiring educational and scientific degree “PhD” - 1;
- Related to the dissertation – 14.
  - Scientific articles in journals with IF – 2
  - Scientific articles in the Scopus database – 5,
  - Scientific reports – 7
- Monograph – 1;
- Medical book with scientific editor –6
  - In Bulgarian with – 2 books of 1 chapter
  - In English published by Elsevier (Scopus) - 4 chapters
- Scientific articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals – 38
  - Actual publications in journals with IF – 3
  - International medical journals in Scopus database and Web of Knowledge – 4
  - International medical journals – 1
  - National medical journals – 30
    - In Scopus and Web of Knowledge database – 6
    - National Reference List (NRS) – 24
- Scientific reports and communications presented in Bulgarian and international scientific forums 101 (printed abstracts – 48)
  - Abstracts printed in journals with IF – 21
  - Abstracts printed in journals in the Scopus and Web of Knowledge database – 3
  - Abstracts printed in journals in the National Reference List – 23
  - Participation in international congresses, with printed abstracts – 13
  - Participation in national congresses, with printed abstracts – 38
  - Participation in international congresses as a lecturer – 2

147 of them are subject to review, which were not reviewed upon acquisition of PhD's Degree.

The presented monograph "Coronary Microcirculation" 2020 has 2 reviewers, but 186 pages have 60 characters and 22 lines/page (i.e. 1320 characters/page), which is equivalent to 137 pages with 1800 characters/page (Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Additional provisions § 1). The scientific articles and summaries of Dr. Tsonev are published in the Journal of Hypertension – 9, European Heart Journal-cardiovascular Imaging – 3, Journal of Health Policy & Outcomes Research – 1, Diagnostics – 1, Arch Med Sci. – 1, Comptes Rendus de l'Academie Bulgare des Sciences – 1, Obesity Reviews – 1, Journal of Cardiovascular Surgery – 4, Value in Health – 1, European Journal of Preventive Cardiology – 1, Eur Heart J Cardiovasc Imaging – 1 and others.

He is the first author in 11 (20.4%) of the articles. In 72 (68.6%) of the reports he is an independent or first author.

The reference made in CML and NACID shows 38 citations registered, of which 11 are in Bulgarian and in the database Scopus and Web of Knowledge – 27 citations.

From actual publications: General IF and individual IF: 6.605/0.851

From published summaries: General IF and individual IF: 48.916/15.925

**The total impact factor of articles and abstracts is: General IF and individual IF: 55.521/16.776**

The table compares the quantitative criteria – the minimum required points and those presented by the candidates.

Group of indicators	Contents	Minimum required points by the Prof. Asen Zlatarov University	Presented by Dr. Petya Kamenova	Presented by Dr. Svetlin Tsonev
A	Indicator 1	50	50	50
B	Indicator 2	-	-	-
C	Indicator 3 or 4	100	680	178,93
D	Sum of indicators from 5 to 9	220	457,80	827.88
E	Sum of indicators from 10 to 12	60	4140	460
F	Sum of indicators from 13 to the end	20	230	245
	Teaching hours		1498,9	2535
<b>Total</b>	<b>points</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>5557,8</b>	<b>1761, 81</b>

The comparison of the data of Dr. Kamenova and Dr. Tsonev with the scientometric criteria of the University for holding the Associate Professor academic position shows that they cover them, and in all points significantly exceed them.

#### 4. Major scientific contributions

##### 4.1. The main topics of Dr. Kamenova's scientific contributions are:

- 1) Determination of indices and indicators of insulin sensitivity as substitutes for the "gold standard" hyperinsulinemic euglycemic clamp technique
- 2) Therapeutic effect of insulin resistance outside the established means for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. It was established that Alpha-lipoic acid administered orally for 4 weeks at a dose of 1200 mg/day improves insulin sensitivity
- 3) Determining the frequency and characteristics of cardiometabolic risk factors of the metabolic syndrome in patients with type 2 diabetes as equivalent to CVD and identifying the need for screening for metabolic syndrome and treatment of all risk factors to reduce global cardiometabolic risk.
- 4) Study of the association between two established CV risk markers – thick intima-media of the carotid artery and insulin sensitivity in patients with type 2 diabetes and found a negative correlation.
- 5) Determining the effect of metformin – drug of first choice in the treatment of type 2 diabetes on cardiometabolic risk factors, metabolic syndrome factors in individuals with metabolic syndrome, normal glucose tolerance and hyperinsulinemia. Metformin has been shown to restore the physiological dynamics of insulin secretion. Its effect on hyperinsulinemia and insulin resistance increases with the duration of treatment. In individuals with metabolic syndrome, metformin may be the drug of choice for reducing cardiometabolic risk factors and for preventing type 2 diabetes and CVD. The effect of metformin on weight reduction, body mass index and waist circumference was established. It reduces the level of LDL cholesterol and Triglycerides and increases HDL cholesterol levels in patients taking antidiabetic drugs.

The works of Dr. Kamenova have proven scientific and scientific-applied contributions in the field of diabetes and especially diabetes mellitus type 2, which is considered as cardiovascular disease, obesity, hypertension, osteoporosis, metabolic syndrome.

##### 4.2. Dr. Tsonev's scientific contributions are in the following areas:

- 1) Cardiac X syndrome – (total number of publications – 7 and dissertation). The results of a complex clinical, laboratory and instrumental assessment of patients with Cardiac Syndrome X (CSX), which is characterized by a heterogeneous etiology, conducted for the first time in Bulgaria have been announced.
- 2) Microvascular function and dysfunction (total number of publications – 10, of which one monograph and one chapter of a book). The monographic work and publications examine in detail both the anatomical and the physiological and pathophysiological mechanisms of microcirculatory function and dysfunction. The work is unique in its subject matter in Bulgaria and combines original results and a detailed literary reference on the subject. The monograph also contains a proposal for an original diagnostic and therapeutic approach in patients with microvascular dysfunction.
- 3) Arterial hypertension
- 4) Risk factors
- 5) Arterial and venous vascular diseases
- 6) Heart failure

## 7) Imaging techniques in cardiology

The above scientific papers (scientific articles, monographs, textbooks and presentations) are devoted to a wide range of heart and vascular diseases and have scientific and applied practical contributions:

**Scientific contributions of original scientific type** are related to:

1. Comparative analysis of endothelial dysfunction and myocardial ischemia-specific markers in a comparison of patients with CSX and those with coronary heart disease.
2. Comparative analysis of gene expression of  $\alpha$ ER and serum levels of  $17\beta$ -estradiol in patients with CSX and those with verified coronary heart disease.
3. A validated method for application of deformation echocardiography techniques in the assessment of the left atrium (strain and strain rate).

**Contributions of scientific and applied type** are related to:

1. Developed algorithm for diagnosis and treatment of patients with microvascular angina.
2. New biochemical markers have been implemented for the differentiation of patients with microvascular and epicardial coronary disease (VEGF, alpha ER, ET1).
3. A clinical approach has been developed in patients with multifocal atherosclerosis with opportunities for endovascular and vascular surgery.
4. The latest ultrasound techniques have been introduced to assess myocardial deformations in patients with rare diseases (Fabry, Pompe), heart failure, during pregnancy, diabetes mellitus.

The developments of Dr. Tsonev have proven scientific and scientific-applied contributions and contribute to the optimization of the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

## 5. Teaching activity

5.1. The study load of Dr. Petya Kamenova includes active participation in the training of medical students and specialists in endocrinology and metabolism by conducting individual training, colloquia and lectures. She is the author of the international educational program "Improving the training of students in endocrinology" approved after a competition under the TEMPUS program of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of Bulgaria, held at the Clinic of Diabetology, Free University Hospital, Amsterdam, Netherlands 30.04.-31.10.1995. As a result, a curriculum with practical exercises and a lecture course for students in endocrinology was developed. She gives lectures in 4 courses for Postgraduate Training at the Department of Endocrinology – a total of 16 hours per year. Dr. Kamenova presented official notes from Medical University – Sofia, Medical Faculty, Department of Endocrinology for the workload for the **period 2006 - 2020, a total of 2055.6 hours**, of which 1416.6 hours of training for medical students in Bulgarian language and 659 hours Postgraduate Training. For the period 2015-2020 the teaching activity is total of 614 hours, of which 300 hours of student training and 314 hours of Postgraduate Training.

Dr. Kamenova has presented official notes that she systematically participates as a lecturer in symposia organized by pharmaceutical companies.

5.2. The workload of Dr. Svetlin Tsonev includes active participation in the training of medical students in Bulgarian and English IIIth year of study "Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine" and IVth year "Internal Medicine", specialists in cardiology, Expert courses in Echocardiography and students Bachelor's degree in nursing and medical rehabilitation, for which he presented official notes from – Medical Faculty, Medical University of Sofia and St. Kliment Ohridski Sofia University - Medical Faculty and Acibadem City Clinic with a **total workload for the period 2012-2019 a total of 2535 hours**. As an assistant and chief assistant in "Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine" at the Medical Faculty, Medical University of Sofia, for the period 2012-2015 he spent 970 hours. As a honorary assistant at Sofia University he has conducted 391 classes of medical students in Bulgarian and English IIIth year "Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine" and IVth year "Internal Medicine" and students Bachelor's degree in nursing and medical rehabilitation at the Medical Faculty of Sofia University. As an honorary assistant at the Department of Internal Medicine at the Medical University of Sofia in the period 2019/2020 – 54 hours of medical students in English IV year. For the period 2015 - 2019 he realized 924 eq. hours of training as a supervisor of 3 trainees in cardiology.

## 6. Medical-diagnostic activity

6.1. The medical-diagnostic activity of Dr. Kamenova includes treatment of patients with diabetes mellitus, obesity, metabolic syndrome, thyroid diseases, osteoporosis, hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal and gonadal diseases.

6.2. The medical-diagnostic activity of Dr. Tsonev includes complex diagnosis, treatment and prevention of all cardiovascular diseases – hypertension, coronary heart disease, atherosclerosis, myocarditis, pericarditis, arrhythmias, deep venous thrombosis, pulmonary thromboembolism, chronic arterial insufficiency of the limbs and others. He is proficient in ultrasound methods of diagnosing the heart and vascular system, as well as invasive methods for diagnosing and treating heart and vascular diseases.

## 7. Expert activity and research activity

### 7.1. Expert activity and research activity of Dr. Kamenova

➤ **Membership in international and national scientific societies and organizations, participating in their management.**

1. Bulgarian Society of Endocrinology
2. Bulgarian Diabetes Association
3. European Association for the Study of Diabetes

➤ **Member of the editorial board and reviewer:**

No document attached

➤ **Participation in research projects:**

*International projects:*

1. Author of the project. International research project "Determination of insulin sensitivity by the gold standard manual hyperinsulinemic euglycemic clamp technique – a method not used in Bulgaria and study the effect of new drugs on insulin secretion



and insulin sensitivity in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus” Implemented for the period October 1, 1996 - March 31, 1997 Clinic of Diabetology, Free University Hospital, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, approved after a competition by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of Bulgaria and the Dutch organization NUFFIC for international cooperation in the field of medicine. The method was introduced in Bulgaria after the completion of the project and is currently of limited application due to the emergence of new methods in practice. (Art. 70, para 8, item 2b of the Regulations for development of the academic staff of “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov” University, Burgas)

2. International scientific project “Evaluation of the effects of a new insulin regimen on the counterregulatory hormones in hypoglycemic clamp test in patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus” Implemented for the period April 1 – July 1,1997, Diabetology Clinic, Free University Hospital, Amsterdam, The Netherlands – Participant
3. International research project “Pathogenesis and treatment of vascular and renal complications of diabetes mellitus” and successfully passed the PhD exam with a certificate from the Cardiovascular Research Institute – Maastricht, The Netherlands, 1997 – participant

➤ **Awards**

No document attached

➤ **Expert activity**

- Consultant of the National Health Insurance Fund for authorization of expensive drugs for the period 2005 - 2007.
- Expert Speaks Interviews, Clinical Pearls Publications, Inc. Prescription 2000, Tishcon Corp. (USA) on “Alpha lipoic acid and improving insulin sensitivity” – 2007

➤ **Member of an expert panel**

No document attached

➤ **International activity**

Included in 2009 in the largest bibliographic publication “Who is who in the field of science and technology” after fulfilling 15 criteria.

➤ **Moderator of scientific events:**

No document attached

➤ **Member of an expert panel**

No document attached

Participation in clinical trials, as well as public appearances are not subject to the competition for associate professor, therefore they will not be commented.

## 7.2. Expert activity and research activity of Dr. Tsonev

### ➤ **Membership in international and national scientific societies and organizations, participating in their management. (Art. 70, para 8, item 2a of the Regulations for development of the academic staff of “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov” University, Burgas)**

1. Ambassador of Heart Imager of Tomorrow to the European Society of Cardiovascular Imaging.
2. Member of the Working group on Hypertension and Sexual dysfunction of the European Society of Hypertension.
3. Chairman of the Working Group on “Valve Diseases” at the Society of Cardiologists in Bulgaria since 2014 to the present
4. Member of the Working Group at the Society of Cardiologists in Bulgaria: “Women and Cardiovascular Risk”
5. Member of the Board of the Association of Non-Invasive Imaging in Cardiology.
6. Member of the Society of Cardiologists in Bulgaria (SCB),
7. Member of the Bulgarian Society of Angiology.
8. Member of the Bulgarian Society of Interventional Cardiology.
9. Member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria.
10. Member of the European Society of Cardiology;
11. Secretary of the XXIV International Congress of Echocardiography, May 17-20, 2018, resort Albena, Bulgaria.

Dr. Tsonev attached a letter from Assoc. Prof. of Cardiology Matteo Cameli MD PhD, Director of Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program, University of Siena Siena, Italy; Secretary at European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (EACVI) EACVI Board Member 2020-2022, European Society of Cardiology Deputy Chair of EACVI Scientific Initiatives Committee Chairman of Echocardiography WG, Italian Society of Cardiology (SIC) to insure more than five years of collaboration in the scientific research field of Cardiovascular Imaging. During this period Dr. Tsonev has been active participator as a Heart Imagers of Tomorrow ambassador in MASCOT study and in FUTURE HIT Study, that is currently ongoing. He has actively presenting at EACVI annual congresses and had been discussant at poster sessions. In collaboration they have organized several educational congresses, sessions, webinars at high practical and scientific quality. Assoc. Prof. Cameli appreciates Dr. Tsonev scientific potential and activities being at high quality as a researcher and educator.

### ➤ **Member of the editorial board and reviewer: (Art. 70, para 8, item 2a of the Regulations for development of the academic staff of the “Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov” University, Burgas)**

1. JACC- case reports- emerging editorial consultant.
2. Heart Failure Reviews – reviewer.
3. Journal of Functional Morphology and Kinesiology – reviewer.
4. Bulgarian Cardiology - reviewer, section editor
5. Praemedicus since 1925 – Deputy editor
6. Continuous Research Online Library – editorial board member.
7. Credoweb Medical Editor.

### ➤ **Participation in research projects:**

#### ➤ Dr. Tsonev participates in 6 (3 international, 3 national).

A. *International projects* – Member of the research team:

1. Multicentric Atrial Strain Comparison between Two different modalities: the MASCOT HIT study, 2019.

2. Study of the diurnal profile of the autonomic cardiac balance in patients with X-syndrome. Supervisor: Prof. M. Matveev, BAS, Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine, Schiller AG, Switzerland.

3. Development of a prototype of a portable system for wireless remote recording of electrocardiographic signals CADIO-DISTANCE. Supervisor: Prof. M. Matveev. BAS, Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine, Schiller AG, Switzerland.

#### *B. National projects*

##### **Lead researcher**

1. Project № 18-D / 2009 from the competition "Young Researcher".  
**"Microvascular angina – clinical, biochemical, instrumental and prognostic assessment in women"** Project duration 1 year; Leading researcher: Dr. Sv. Tsonev. Project deadline: 2010 Rating: **Excellent**

##### **Member of the research team:**

2. Project with funds from NSF - MES - TC-L-1605/06: **"Evaluation of the role of vitamin E as a dietary supplement in the treatment of patients with heart failure"**; Project duration 3 years; Project manager: Prof. Dr. Temenuga Donova, MD, Dr. K. Vitliyanova

3. Medical University of Sofia, Research project 2013:  
**Circadian rhythm and melatonin in patients with sleep disorders.** Duration: 1 year; Lead researcher: Prof. Petrova

##### ➤ **Awards:**

1. 1st prize in a competition for a clinical case, 2020, Publication: Sv. Tsonev. Microvascular angina – a therapeutic challenge. Analysis of drug possibilities and clinical case. Bulg. Card. 2020 (accepted for printing 09/11/2020)
2. Nomination for "Doctors we trust", 2014
3. 1st prize: Young Researcher Competition, National Congress of Cardiology, 2012
4. Nomination in a competition for scientific achievements for 2012 among those who defended their doctoral theses. Association of Scientists in Bulgaria.
5. Diploma for excellent performance at the annual meeting of young cardiologists, March 2012.
6. Award in a poster session, National Congress of Cardiology, Albena 2010
7. I prize: International Congress of Medical Sciences, Sofia 2006
8. III prize: International Congress of Medical Sciences, Sofia 2005.
9. III prize: International Congress of Medical Sciences, Sofia 2004
10. II prize: International Congress of Medical Sciences, Sofia 2003

##### ➤ **Expert activity**

1. Expert at the National Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation, Standing Committee on Health and Sports and has participated repeatedly in expert groups for evaluation and accreditation.

➤ **Moderator of scientific events:**

1. Session: Interesting clinical cases. V Bulgarian course in coronary physiology and physiology of non-coronary vessels with live cases. November 25-26, 2017, resort Borovets.
2. CARDIOMYOPATHY AND PERICARDIAL DISEASES. XXIV world congress of echocardiography and cardiovascular imaging. 17-20 May 2018y.
3. III National Meeting on Echocardiography and non-invasive imaging. July 4-6, 2019, the town of Pravets.
4. Conference ""2020: The Year of Imaging"". November 27 - 29, 2020

➤ **Member of an expert panel**

1. Echocardiography: masses and sources of emboli. 23rd Annual Congress of the EACVI. [www.escardio.org/EACVI](http://www.escardio.org/EACVI)
2. Heart Imagers of Tomorrow (HIT) Clinical Case Poster session 2. 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Congress of the EACVI. [www.escardio.org/EACVI](http://www.escardio.org/EACVI)
3. CARDIOMYOPATHY AND PERICARDIAL DISEASES. World Echo Congress 2018y.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to note that the professional and biographical data, postgraduate training, scientific, teaching and expert activities of the two candidates, as well as the acquired qualification, fully meet the requirements of the Rules on the Implementation of the Law on Academic Staff of Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas for the academic position "Associate Professor".

The competition has been announced for one place. Based on my judgment, I rank the candidates in the following order:

1. Svetlin Nedkov Tsonev, MD, PhD
2. Petya Kamenova Petkova, MD, PhD

Argumentations:

1. Dr. Tsonev, in addition to 2 specialties, has acquired qualifications and masters in all modern ultrasound and invasive methods for diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases, has a master's degree in "Public Health and Health Management" in Faculty of Public Health of Medical University, Sofia.

Dr. Kamenova has not presented such diplomas and certificates

2. Dr. Tsonev has managerial experience as Head of Department at the Clinic of Cardiology of II MHAT Sofia.

Dr. Kamenova – has no

3. Dr. Tsonev is presented in the competition with **161** scientific papers, of which 101 are scientific activity. Dr. Tsonev has a significantly larger total scientific activity for his 14 years and 4 months of work experience, and this difference is significant for the

last 5 years. *For the period 2015-2020* he presents a total of **89 scientific papers**: 1 monograph; 1 chapter in a medical book in Bulgarian – 2 books; 4 chapters in a medical book in English, published by Elsevier (Scopus); 22 scientific articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals (4 of which in a journal with IF and 4 in the Scopus and Web of Knowledge database) and 60 scientific reports and announcements with printed abstracts, presented at 35 Bulgarian and 25 international scientific forums (14 published in journals with IF, and 3 in the Web of Knowledge).

Dr. Kamenova is presented in the competition with **90** scientific papers, of which 38 are scientific activity, despite significantly longer work experience – 34 years and 5 months. *For the period 2015-2020* Dr. Kamenova presents a total of **10 scientific papers**: 5 scientific articles in journals with IF, 2 chapters from a book in English and 3 abstracts of National Scientific Forums.

4. Dr. Tsonev has a more diverse teaching activity – training of medical students in Bulgarian and English IIIth year ‘Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine’ and IVth year ‘Internal Medicine’, specialists in cardiology and Bachelor’s degree students in nursing and medical rehabilitation for the period of **9 years (2012-2019) in total - 2535 hours**, as well as for the last 5 years (**2015-2020 – is 1565 hours**).

Dr. Kamenova teaches only medical students in Bulgarian – Vth year ‘Internal Medicine – Endocrinology’, as well as specialists in Endocrinology and Metabolism. Total workload for the period of the last **15 years (2006-2020) is 2055.6 hours**, and for **2015-2020 it is 614 hours**.

5. Dr. Kamenova has developed a curriculum with practical exercises and a lecture course for students of endocrinology as a result of the international educational project ‘Improving the training of students in endocrinology’ in 1995. It should be noted that despite the developed program before 26, Dr. Kamenova has 2 times less workload compared to Dr. Tsonev.

6. Dr. Tsonev has extensive experience as a member of international and national scientific societies and organizations, participating in their management and working groups. He is a **Member of the Editorial Board and a reviewer of authoritative international medical journals**, such as JACC – case reports – emerging editorial consultant, Heart Failure Reviews – reviewer, Journal of Functional Morphology and Kinesiology – reviewer and others.

Dr. Kamenova has significantly more modest experience and has not provided evidence of participation in a Council or Managerial Board, as well as in an editorial board or as a reviewer.

7. Dr. Tsonev has participated in 6 research projects – 3 international and 3 Bulgarian, of which he is the leader.

Dr. Kamenova participates in 3 international projects, and she is the author of 1 of them.

8. Dr. Tsonev is an award winner at over 10 national congresses

bibliographic publication “Who is who in the field of science and technology” after fulfilling 15 criteria, it should be noted that the main part of her scientific and expert activity is more than 5 - 10 years ago.

According to the Regulations for development of the academic staff of “Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov” University, Burgas, Art. 70, para 8, other things being equal, additional indicators related to the research activity are taken into account – item 2 a (membership in authoritative creative and scientific organizations) and item 2 b (application in the practice of scientific research). Dr. Kamenova introduced a laboratory method for manual hyperinsulinemic euglycemic clamp technician after completing a research project in 1997, which is currently finding more limited application. (Article 70, paragraph 8, item 2 b). While the indicators of Dr. Tsonev Membership in international and national scientific societies and organizations, participating in their management, a letter from Assoc. Prof. Matteo Cameli, University of Siena Siena, Italy and member of the editorial board and reviewer) under Art. 70, para 8, item 2 a are many times better presented in the last 5 years, which will allow for better development of the newly established Medical Faculty.

**In conclusion, I emphasize the following:**

1. My review is fully compliant with the current regulations – the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for Implementation of the Law on the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the development of the academic staff of “Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov” University, Burgas.
2. I made a completely objective and in-depth analysis of the research, teaching and clinical activities, based solely on the facts of the sets of documents.

**Given the above, I strongly recommend the esteemed members of the Scientific Jury to vote in favor of the election of Svetlin Nedkov Tsonev, MD, PhD for holding the academic position “Associate Professor” in the field of higher education 7. Health and Sports, professional field 7.1 Medicine, in the scientific specialty “Internal Medicine” for the needs of the Medical Faculty of Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov University, Burgas.**

Finally, I want to confirm that Petya Kamenova Petkova, MD, PhD has enough qualities and I would vote positively for her in a future competition.

21.02.2021  
Sofia

Reviewer:  
(Prof. Milena Staneva, MD, PhD)